

Message Text

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TAGS: OAS, SHUM

SUBJECT: OASGA SUMMARY: JUNE 28, 1978

USDEL 18

1. SUMMARY: MORNING SESSION OF GA WAS DEVOTED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO DEBATE OF MEXICAN AND US GUIDELINES ON HIGH-LEVEL NEGOTIATING GROUP TO READDRESS BROAD QUESTION OF OAS REFORM. VETERANS OF CEESI, THREE YEAR EFFORT TO RESTRUCTURE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, VOICED USUAL LONG LITANY OF COMPLAINTS OVER US REFUSAL TO ACCEPT SUCH INNOVATIONS AS COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY AND PROPOSED WHOLE MATTER SHOULD BE REFERRED BACK TO PERMANENT COUNCIL TO CONTINUE ITS WORK. HUMAN RIGHTS TOOK FOUR HOURS OF COMMITTEE I IN AFTERNOON, CONCENTRATING ON EXCHANGE BETWEEN NICARAGUA AND VENEZUELA UNTIL PANAMA AND EL SALVADOR ATTACKED USDEL FOR LINKING SPECIAL IAHR REPORTS ON THEM WITH COUNTRIES ACCUSED OF GRAVE HUMAN RIGHTS

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ABUSES. USDEL HAD ALREADY REDRAFTED OFFENDING PARAGRAPHS. IAHR REPORTS ON PARAGUAY/URGUAY WILL BE DEBATED MORNING OF JUNE 29. END SUMMARY.

1. GENERAL COMMITTEE GAVE EXTENSIVE ATTENTION TO CONCEPT OF NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE ON OAS REFORM. ALTHOUGH THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO SUBMITTED

RATHER DIFFERENT PROPOSALS, BOTH AMBASSADORS DE LA COLINA AND MCGEE STRESSED COMMONALITY OF PURPOSE OF THEIR RESOLUTIONS. IN DEBATE, PROPOSALS BY BOTH MEXICO AND US CAME UNDER HEAVY FIRE FROM HALF-DOZEN DELEGATIONS WITH PANAMA (PITTY) AND ECUADOR (GALO LEORO) LEADING STRONG OPPOSITION. PITTY IN PARTICULAR TOOK LINE THAT CEESI HAD COME UP WITH SOUND PROPOSALS ON RESTRUCTURING, WHICH US ALONE FOUND UNACCEPTABLE. PANAMA AND ECUADOR GOT SOME SUPPORT FROM PERU, BUT ITS CRITICISM WAS LESS INTRANSIGENT. ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL WERE LESS THAN LUKEWARM, WITH BRAZIL SUGGESTING CAREFUL STUDY OF NOTION OVER REMAINING DAYS OF GA. ANOTHER FOCUS OF UNHAPPINESS, EVEN AMONG COUNTRIES (SUCH AS EL SALVADOR) WHICH SAID THEY COULD OTHERWISE ACCEPT THE IDEA, BUT OBJECTED TO DELEGATION OF SOVEREIGNTY TO SMALL NEGOTIATING GROUP. VENEZUELA (MACHIN) AND JAMAICA (RATTRAY) ATTACKED CRITICISM THAT ANY DELEGATION OF SOVEREIGNTY WOULD BE INVOLVED, AND POINTED OUT THAT THE OAS FREQUENTLY ACTED BY MEANS OF WORKING GROUPS. DEBATE ON THIS ISSUE IS SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE TOMORROW MORNING IN GENERAL COMMITTEE.

2. AFTERNOON SESSION OF COMMITTEE I FEATURED GENERAL STATEMENT OF US POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS, CHAPTER TWO OF VENEZUELAN-NICARAGUAN WAR OF WORDS
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AND HARSH ATTACK BY PANAMANIAN REP PITTY ON US DRAFT RESOLUTION (USDEL 12) ON ANNUAL REPORT OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WHICH CALLED UPON COMMISSION TO EXPEDITE REPORTS ON RECENT VISITS TO PANAMA AND EL SALVADOR. AMBASSADOR MCGEE OPENED SESSION WITH GENERAL STATEMENT PRAISING WORK OF IAHRC AND EXPRESSING US AIM TO STRENGTHEN ITS ROLE AS PRIMARY ORGANIZATION FOR DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN HEMISPHERE. REFERRING TO DISCUSSION OF NICARAGUA WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE JUNE 27, MCGEE EXPRESSED US CONCERN ABOUT REPORTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN NICARAGUA AND SATISFACTION THAT GON HAD INVITED TO IAHRC TO VISIT. MCGEE SAID THAT IN US VIEW POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES IN NICARAGUA WOULD HAVE TO BE RESOLVED BY INTERNAL POLITICAL PROCESSES BUT HE EXPRESSED HOPE IAHRC VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE SOON. RE CHILE, MCGEE NOTED THAT US FOLLOWED WITH INTEREST STEPS TOWARD NORMALIZATION AND RESTORATION OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES THERE. FULL TEXT OF MCGEE COMMENTS WILL BE FORWARDED SEPTEL.

3. FOLLOWING US STATEMENT, NICARAGUAN REP SEVILLA SACASA MADE LONG-AWAITED RESPONSE TO VENEZUELAN

AMBASSADOR MACHIN'S ATTACK OF 27TH. SEVILLA SACASA SALUTED MEMBERS OF IAHRC AND LAID GREAT STRESS ON POSITIVE GON RESPONSE TO IAHRC REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO VISIT NICARAGUA. IN ROLLING SONORITIES OF OLD-FASHIONED LATIN RHETORIC, HIS TRADEMARK, SEVILLA SACASA DEFENDED RECORD OF 'DEMOCRATIC' NICARAGUA AGAINST VENEZUELAN CALUMNY, CHARGING MACHIN, AMONG OTHER THINGS, WITH UNGENTLEMANLY BEHAVIOR AND WITH CAUSING DETERIORATION OF DEBATE IN OAS BY HIS DISRESPECTFUL ATTACK ON DIGNITY OF MEMBER STATES. THIS PROVOKED FORTY-FIVE MINUTE REBUTTAL BY MACHIN, REPLETE WITH DOCUMENTS, NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES, ALL DETAILING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS OF GON.

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4. LATE IN MEETING, PANAMANIAN REP PITTY MADE HARSH ATTACK ON US, CHARGING OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH IN USDEL DRAFT RESOLUTION ON ANNUAL REPORT OF IAHRC INSULTED PANAMA AND EL SALVADOR BY CALLING UPON COMMISSION TO EXPEDITE REPORTS ON RECENT VISITS TO BOTH WHILE ENDORSING VISITS TO COUNTRIES ACCUSED OF SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. PITTY EXCEEDED HIS OWN RECORD FOR VITUPERATION, HEAVING INVECTIVE ON US WITH GUSTO NOT SEEN SINCE CANAL TREATIES SIGNED. PITTY ASSERTED THAT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PANAMA AND IAHRC WAS BILATERAL MATTER AND NOT THE BUSINESS OF THIRD COUNTRIES. PITTY SAID THAT US WAS ALSO SUBJECT TO JURISDICTION OF IAHRC AND SUGGESTED THAT GA MIGHT WELL CONSIDER REQUESTING IAHRC TO INVESTIGATE VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND DISCRIMINATION ON RACIAL, RELIGIOUS AND SEXUAL GROUNDS, ALL OF WHICH HAPPILY ARE NOT PROBLEMS IN PANAMA. EL SALVADOR (BERTRAN) FOLLOWED LIKE COCK BOAT IN WAKE OF PANAMANIAN MAN-OF-WAR, EXPRESSING HURT THAT IT WAS CITED IN US DRAFT RESOLUTION WHEN IT HAD FREELY INVITED IAHRC TO VISIT TO INVESTIGATE CHARGES AND THAT BY COUNTRY WHICH ITSELF, UNLIKE EL SALVADOR, HAD ONLY RECENTLY SIGNED AND NOT YET RATIFIED PACT OF SAN JOSE. BERTRAN ALSO CONDEMNED US USE OF HUMAN RIGHTS CRITERIA IN DECISIONS ON ALLOCATION OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

5. PREVIOUS TO PANAMANIAN AND SALVADORAN ATTACKS, US HAD REQUESTED SECRETARIAT TO AMEND DRAFT RESOLUTIONS TO REMOVE REFERENCES TO REPORTS ON PANAMA AND

EL SALVADOR. UNFORTUNATELY, EARLIER VERSION OF DRAFT WAS CIRCULATED, WITH RESULTS DESCRIBED ABOVE. USDEL (BUSHNELL) STATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN

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MISUNDERSTANDING OF PURPOSE OF US DRAFT RESOLUTION
AND THAT US WAS SUBMITTING AMENDMENTS TO DELETE
REFERENCES TO PANAMA AND EL SALVADOR. BUSHNELL TOOK
OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE US INVITATION TO IAHRC TO
VISIT US AT ANY TIME AND TO NOTE THAT US HAD SOVEREIGN
RIGHT TO DECIDE DISTRIBUTION OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
IT PROVIDED TAKING INTO ACCOUNT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION
IN RECIPIENT COUNTRIES. VANCE

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